

**Department of
Veterans Affairs**

Memorandum

Date: **APR 21 2006**

From: Assistant Secretary for Information and Technology (005)

Subj: Information Technology Realignment Implementation

To: Under Secretaries, Assistant Secretaries, and Other Key Officials

1. On March 22nd, 2006, the Secretary approved the VA Federated Information Technology (IT) Management System, realigning IT operation and maintenance functions under the Assistant Secretary for Information and Technology (AS/IT) and Department Chief Information Officer (CIO). As the first step in this process, the Deputy Secretary, in his memorandum of April 12, 2006, directed the mass detail of all IT personnel involved in operations and maintenance with the exception of the Office of the Inspector General. This detail process is to be completed by April 30, 2006.

2. The Office of Information and Technology (OI&T), working in coordination with the Office of Human Resources and Administration, electronically issued a mass change memorandum to each affected VA organization. This was completed on April 17, 2006. Detailing of identified employees is to be completed by April 30, 2006. In concert with this next step, and critical to communications and the continuum of IT operations and maintenance, I have attached two organizational charts that identify the OI&T leadership and management team and our new reporting structure.

3. This significant IT personnel realignment within the Department requires an interim restructuring of the Office of the CIO to manage the operations and maintenance activities for the CIO. This office will be lead by a Chief Operations Office (COO) who will direct IT operations and maintenance personnel for the CIO. Until the COO is selected, Jeff Shyshka, my Organization Transition Advisor, will oversee all operations and maintenance activities and any consolidation for me. He will be assisted by four new Executive Directors.

4. Until these Executive Directors are selected, the Acting Deputy Executive Directors will also assist me in managing our initial operation and maintenance efforts and any consolidation. Ray Sullivan will lead field operations; Charles De Sanno will lead system engineering; David Cheplick will lead Telecommunications; and Gary Twedt will lead business operations. Additionally, I have selected Amanda Graves Scott to manage the VACO Staff and Support Management Office. Ms. Scott will report directly to the COO's office to ensure the Staff Offices and selected VHA IT operation groups have appropriate representation and visibility.

5. At the end of the 90 – 120 day organization stand-up period, I have directed this leadership team to begin the process of centralizing operations and maintenance functions across VA where possible. The goal is to implement a series of Network Support Centers (NSC)/Regional Support Centers (RSC) to leverage field leadership and expertise and to begin the process of standardizing IT infrastructure operations to gain compatibility, interoperability and resource savings.

6. E-Gov, Privacy, FOIA and Record Management activities have been reorganized into a separate office. I have selected Sally Wallace to direct this highly visible and important inter-governmental initiative and, as such, she will report directly to the CIO.

7. The operations and maintenance of our three major data centers at Hines, Philadelphia, and Austin, will be managed by Linda Voges, the new director for Data Center Operations. At the end of the 90 – 120 day organization stand-up period, I have directed Linda Voges to begin developing Data Center Operations and Maintenance Protocols to standardize and enhance the capabilities of these data centers.

8. Finally, the follow-on transition efforts that we will implement over the next two years will ensure that best business practices are embedded in both our Operational and Maintenance Domain and Development Domain. An Independent Contractor will validate the IT management construct within the framework of the Federated IT System Model and recommend changes that will promote best business practices across the Department. These best business practices will provide a cooperative partnership between the business needs of the Department and the enabling tools of the IT community that will result in better service to veterans and their families

9. These individuals, both acting and permanently assigned, will lead their programs, effective April 30, 2006. I have assigned them the responsibilities, authorities and accountabilities to lead and manage IT activities as directed by their positions.

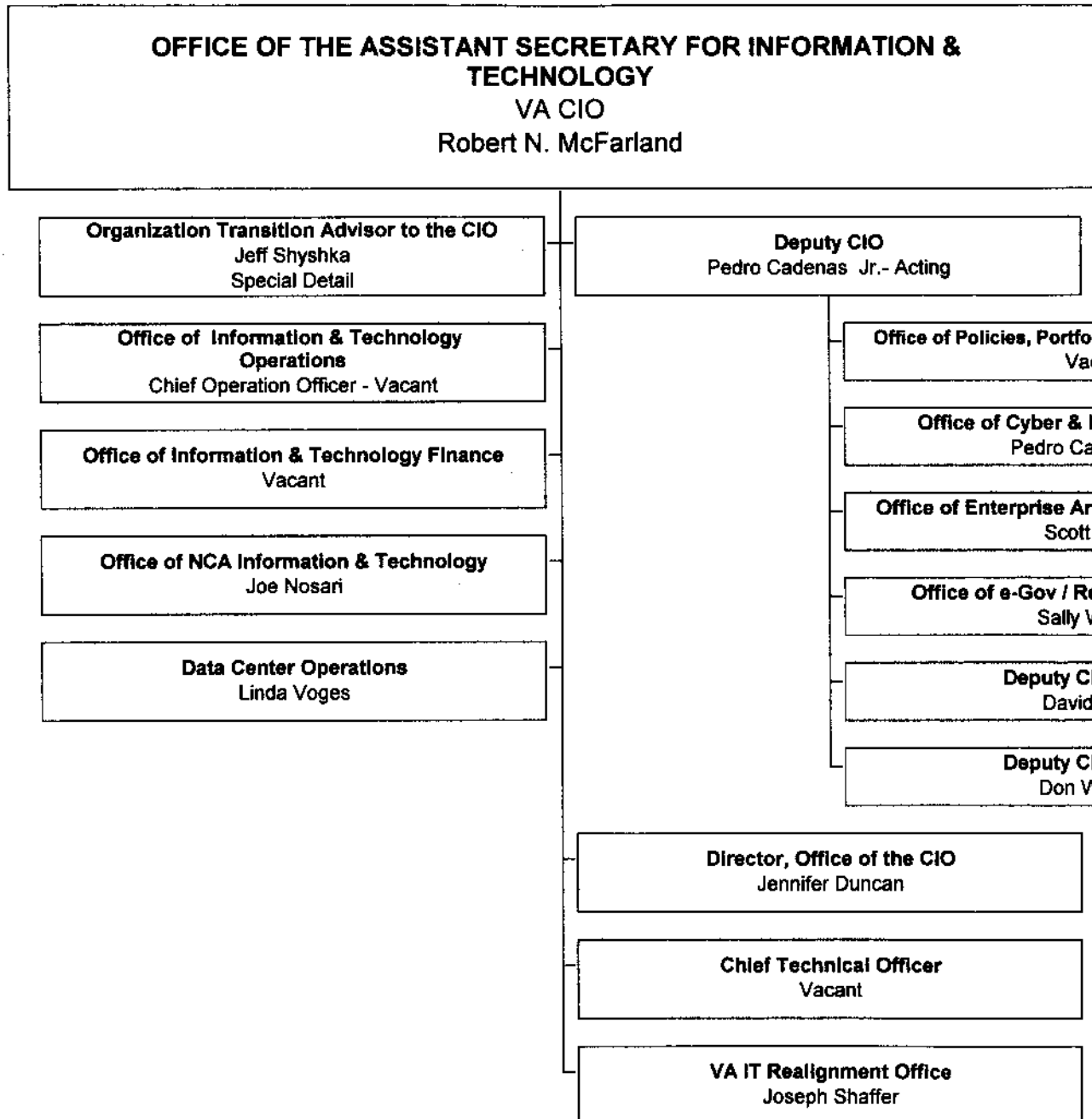
10. Your support is appreciated as we move forward with this realignment that will ultimately improve the Department's ability to provide the full range of benefits and programs to the Nation's veterans. If you have any questions, please contact me at (202) 273-8842.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. McFarland", with a stylized, cursive script.

Robert N. McFarland

4/20/06

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR INFORMATION & TECHNOLOGY



**Office of Information and Technology Operations
Chief Operations Officer - Vacant**

